



Exhausted after a 1944 mission over Italy, Doug Morrell rests up for the remainder of his adventures that would make him a household name among photographers.

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from the November issue of Airman magazine.

By 2nd Lt. Adrienne Michele [●]
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Doug Morrell, a retired chief master sergeant, has just about done it all over his 30-year military career. He served in World War II as a combat cameraman and flew 32 combat missions before being shot down over the "Iron Gates" of Romania. He evaded the enemy by walking across Yugoslavia and Albania for 27 days and bribing an Albanian fisherman for a ride to Italy.

Back in action, he was flying his fifth raid over the Ploesti, Romania, oil fields when he was

shot down again. "Oh, no! Here we go again!" That's exactly what I said when I bailed out," he said. "I was really thinking about having to back again." He parachuted to the ground. This time, the Germans were waiting. He spent 4 1/2 months as a POW in Bucharest before the advancing Russian army freed him. Almost 60 years later, and at age 85, Morrell tells these stories from the safety of his living room in Highland, Calif. Nowadays he reg-



Morrell encourages videographers to get back to basics: the point of pictures is still the story. "It doesn't mean a thing if you don't have a story."

ularly attends photography seminars, usually as a critiquer. He's seen a lot of changes since he was in uniform behind the camera. In the last 20 years, MTV has defined the new video style. "I still can't get used to all these fast-flash commercials and stuff," he said with disdain. "Since new advances come in all the time, [younger camera-men] want to use everything." With the popularity of embedded media, could combat camera fall by the wayside? Morrell doesn't think so. He said embedded journalists did a good job in Operation Iraqi Freedom, but they can't replace what combat camera does, especially with classified projects and conditions that only airmen are trained for. There's room for both storytellers.